

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A digital image processing method detects facial features in a digital image. This method includes the steps of detecting iris pixels in the image, clustering the iris pixels, and selecting at least one of the following schemes to

5 identify eye positions: applying geometric reasoning to detect eye positions using the iris pixel clusters; applying a summation of squared difference method using the iris pixel clusters to detect eye positions; and applying a summation of squared difference method to detect eye positions from the pixels in the image. The method applied to identify eye positions is selected on the basis of the number of

10 iris pixel clusters, and the facial features are located using the identified eye positions.

T092T 96046660